Subject: West Indian coinage.

Thomsen, Paul

[Mennonite Sanitarium

La Junta, CO]

1918

July 29th, 1918.

Mr. Paul Thomsen,
Virgin Island National Bank,
St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

Dear Sir:-

A short while ago Mr. Viggo C. Eberlin wrote us to say that you were much interested in West Indian coins, and that you wanted a list of what books there were on the subject. The writer sent Mr. Eberlin his own monograph as well as a list of other books. I am writing you to let you know that this Society has a very fine collection of cut and counterstamped West Indian coins as well as a very good collection of the tradesman's tokens issued at St. Thomas. Our regular Danish West Indian series is fairly complete but the condition is not overgood. We would be very pleased to correspond with you and compare notes, and would appreciate any help you might be able to give us. If you care to become a member of our Society, I would be very glad to propose your name. I am sending you various literature, and beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.

La Junta Oktbr. 9th 1918.
Colo.

Curator Howland Wood.
New York.

Dear Sir:

I thank you very much for your kind letter dat. Oktbr. 1st. I am sure, there will be lots of things that I would like to see in the museum and I am very thankfull for your Invitation.

I am very much interested in those two copper Coins D.W.I. of 1740. I am pretty sure, the are some of the rarest real issued danish coins, the ½ Skilling I have never seen but know it existed, though I did not think it could be found any more.

I would be very thankfull if it was possible you could let me have rubbings of these coins, if it is not too much trouble.

There is an other coin, which I think is very rare: that is the only coin, I know of, with the Kings (Frederik V.) picture on

2.

It was issued 1748 and there is an other coin from the same year, but that has only King Frederik's initials. (This is the silver piece 12 Skilling) I am sorry to say, I have got neither, but Rev. J. Faber, Hartford. Conn. (from D. W. S.) has both. He was the very first collector down there and has an extremely fine collection, as far as I remember he is only to get 2 Skilling 1740 to be complete. —

Could you tell me anything about the value of these danish coins? I havent got any idea whatsoever about it.

In the hope, that my questions are not inconvenient to you

I beg to remain

Yours very truly

Paul Thomsen.

P. S.
My address has been changed into:

Co Mennonite Sanatorium

R. F. La Junta

Colorado.

Mennonite San, La Junta Nov. 18th 1918.
Colo.

Mr. Howland Wood.
Curator of American Numismatic Society.
New York.

Dear Mr Wood.

I am very sorry that I havent answered your kind letter dated Oct 21, before but I have been in bed for some time and hope you will excuse me. Many thanks for the photographs of I. & II Shilling 1740 those coins are certainly in fine condition.

Regarding your questions about the 24 Shilling's which you have found in silver and copper I am only able to tell you, that I have also a good copper 24 Shilling 1763. This piece was found in that condition by a laborer in Saint Croix, W I. But I believe that there was silver around it in 1763! I got once a 1766 Chr 6th 24 Shilling which was partly silver and underneath was copper, still more red in color than the 1763, 65. The silver disappeared by the cleaning it. It is in rather poor condition (I have never seen a good 24 Shg. 1766) but the peculiar thing is that the obverse face up is the reverse face down! I have never seen any other of that kind; perhaps you can tell me anything about it? All other

D. W. I. silver pieces have gone up the same way on both sides.

That 6 pence piece with the crowned F rather puzzles me. The crown could look like the danish crown (Watermark of stamps) But I must say, that I dont believe it to be counterstamped by the danes. The piece is from 1684 and Frederik 5th did not appear before 1699. I dont believe that F to be as old as that. It is possible that it regards to Frederik 7th (1848-63). As you will know there are U.S. cents 1851 & Penny Geo III. counterstamped with his crowned monogram, but his mark was FR. VII.

Anyhow it is very interesting and I shall be glad to try to find out about it from friends down there, but I doubt I will be able to tell you any news. — I suppose you are aware that the 12 Shilling piece 1767 is found in several forms? The reason is that it was struck often between 1767 & 1800 but all issues having 1767 marked, though the coins are different. That is why that piece is so comon, but there are at least five different issues.

If anything interesting should turn up I will allways be glad to hear from you.

Yours very truly

Carl Thomsen